

Message Text

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

FOLLOWING REPEAT PORT AU PRINCE 2969 ACTION USINFO INFO SECSTATE
BRIDGETOWN CARACAS GEORGETOWN KINGSTON MEXICO PARAMARIBO
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QUOTE

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 2969

USIA FOR IOP, ILA, IPS/PL. IBS/PL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: ANDREW YOUNG STATEMENT

FOLLOWING IS THE OPENING STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG
AT HIS 8:00 A.M. PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY RESIDENCE
IN PORT-AU-PRINCE, AUGUST 15:

"I COME HERE THIS MORNING TO SHARE WITH YOU THE CONCERNS OF
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. OUR STATEMENT IS NOT SO MUCH A
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JUDGEMENT ON YOU OR YOUR COUNTRY BUT IN A SENSE A JUDGEMENT
OF OURSELVES. FOR IT HAS TAKEN US ALMOST TWO HUNDRED YEARS
TO REALIZE CERTAIN THINGS ABOUT LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT
OF HAPPINESS. WE ATTEMPTED, I THINK, FOR MUCH OF THAT PERIOD
A COMPROMISE ON OUR BASIC PRINCIPLES, AND FOR ALMOST HALF
OF OUR HISTORY THOSE PRINCIPLES AND CONCERNS WERE DENIED TO
PEOPLE WHO WERE BLACK. FOR EVEN LONGER WE DID NOT

UNDERSTAND THE FULL IMPLICATION OF THOSE PRINCIPLES FOR WOMEN IN OUR SOCIETY. IN OUR PURSUIT OF WEALTH AND POWER, WE TOOK FOR GRANTED BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. AND I THINK WE NEGLECTED THEM TO OUR OWN PERIL. FOR IN THE PAST DECADE WE FOUND THIS GOVERNMENT OF WHICH WE ARE SO PROUD HAVING BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CREATION OF AND PROPPING UP OF MANY OF THE MILITARY DICTATORSHIPS AND MOST CORRUPTED GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOUND THEIR TAX DOLLARS FOR WHICH THEY WORKED VERY HARD GOING ABROAD ONLY TO MAKE THE RICH RICHER AND ESSENTIALLY NOT CONTRIBUTING VERY MUCH TO THE POOREST OF THE POOR. WE FOUND MILITARY ASSISTANCE CREATING MILITARY DICTATORSHIPS THAT IMPRISONED THEIR OWN CITIZENS AND DENIED THEM ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, ALL LEGAL PROCESSES. WE HEARD STORIES OF OUR ALLIES, VERY WELL DOCUMENTED, OF SAVAGE PRACTICES OF TORTURE. WE OURSELVES IN VIETNAM CONTRIBUTED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF ALMOST AN ENTIRE REGION. AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN 1976 IN THE ELECTION OF JIMMY CARTER AS PRESIDENT SAID: 'NO MORE*' THAT WE WOULD USE THE RESSOURCES AT OUR COMMAND TO HELP THE POOR, TO BRING FREEDOM IN THE WORLD, AND HOPEFULLY TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR EXTENDING THE KIND OF HUMAN RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD THAT WE HAVE COME TO FEEL ARE THE VERY ESSENCE OF OUR SOCIETY, THE BASIS OF OUR SUCCESS AND ALSO THE INSPIRATION FOR OUR FUTURE. I AM HERE IN HAITI SIMPLY TO SHARE THAT MESSAGE WITH THE PEOPLE AND WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI. WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF OVERTLY INTERFERING OR THROUGH CLANDESTINE ACTIONS ENCOURAGING EFFORTS UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT GO AGAINST YOUR GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES, WHATEVER THEY MAY BE. BUT WE DO INTEND TO SHARE OUR EXPERIENCE THAT IMPRISONMENT OF THE VOICES OF FREEDOM AND DIGNITY AMONG THE SOCIETY, DENYING THEM ACCESS TO THEIR FAMILIES, TREATING THEM WITH BRUTALITY, DOES NOT DO ANYTHING TO FURTHER THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF A COUNTRY. IN FACT IT CONTRIBUTES ULTIMATELY TO ITS DOWNFALL. WE WOULD HOPE THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI WOULD AVAIL HERSELF TO THE INTERAMERICAN COMMISSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THAT THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN ESPOUSED BY THE PRESIDENT MIGHT FIND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE IN IMPLEMENTATION, SO THAT HUMAN RIGHTS IN HAITI COULD BECOME AN IMMEDIATE REALITY, AND THAT YOU WOULD NOT HAVE TO SUFFER THE 200 YEAR STRUGGLE THAT WE DID. FOR THE BARRIERS THAT WE EXPERIENCED ON THE BASIS OF RACE ARE EQUALLY AS TRAGIC WHEN THEY ARE EXPERIENCED ON THE BASIS OF CLASS OR WHEN THE URBAN POPULATION IS ATTENDED TO AND THE RURAL POPULATION NEGLECTED. YEATERDAY WE WERE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TOLD US THAT IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO SIGN THE CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. AND THAT WHILE THEY TOO ARE NOT PERFECT, THEY ACCEPTED THE IDEALS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES AND WERE PLEDGED TO WORK IN THAT

DIRECTION. I THINK THAT WE ALSO SEE HUMAN RIGHTS, IN ADDITION TO THE RIGHT TO VOTE, THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH, THE RIGHT OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION AS SIMPLY THE RIGHT TO EAT. FOR THE BASIC ECONOMIC RIGHT TO SURVIVAL HAS TO BE CONSIDERED AS THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT AND IN ORDER FOR THAT RIGHT TO BE REALIZED, THEN EVERY HONEST ATTEMPT TO SHARE THE EXISTING WEALTH AND RESSOURCES HAS TO BE UTILIZED AND THAT THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE AUTHORITY OF FEEDING THE HUNGRY NECESSARILY MUST BE THE ONES WHO BY THEIR OWN SACRIFICE THEIR OWN DEDICATION AND THEIR OWN HONESTY SEE TO IT THAT THE HUNGRY ARE FED, AND THAT THE SICK ARE HEALED, AND THAT THOSE WHO HAVE NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF EDUCATION BE BROUGHT INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF MODERN INTELLECTUAL LIFE. WE KNOW THAT THESE ARE AMBITIOUS GOALS BUT WE PLEDGE OURSELVES NOT ONLY UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, NOT ONLY TO THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, BUT WE PLEDGE OURSELVES TO WORK WITH OUR FRIENDS AND OUR ADVERSARIES ALIKE TO PROTECT THE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE ORDINARY PEOPLE, THE LITTLE PEOPLE. WHAT MARTIN LUTHER KING USED TO CALL 'THE LEAST OF THESE OUR BRETHREN' AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT WE WOULD HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT AND OF THE HAITIAN PEOPLE AS WE ATTEMPT TO MAKE THIS ENTIRE WORLD A MORE CIVILIZED PLACE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH." END QUOTES.
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